

Letter from the Director

Greetings

As you know, July is Elder Abuse Awareness Month. During Older Americans Month in May, we celebrated the contributions of our elders and the debt we owe them. I urge you to recognize also a group of Older Americans too often forgotten – the victims of elder abuse.

This is their month. It is an appropriate time to highlight this problem and encourage our communities to face it head on and do their part in protecting victims of this personal devastation.

This is not an easy job, and those of you working in this field – who see this on a day-to-day basis - know the heartbreaks and the successes. I thank you for the important work you do and for your dedication to the elderly of Illinois. Your continued commitment to elder rights will help us win the battle – to encourage elder abuse victims and those who touch their lives to break the silence.

To aid you, we have compiled a tool kit that includes a sample speech, a letter to the editor, public-service announcements, articles for newsletters, print ads and other promotional materials.

I hope you will use this material to reach out and inform your local communities that the population desperately needs us. Their tragedy is a reflection upon all of us and the values that define us.

If you need anything more, please do not hesitate to contact my staff for outreach materials that will help us meet this important need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles D. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charles D. Johnson, Director
Illinois Department on Aging